did not make purchases.

— Proper classification of tobacco is necessary. It is desirable for the smooth conduct of auctions and is beneficial for the farmers in getting better prices. If the bundle is of uniform quality, it will fetch a higher price in the auction bidding.

— The interest of the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union in getting export orders to Russia has been conveyed to the Russian authorities.

— Tobacco Board has been directed to fix the targets well in advance every year.

— The Tobacco Board Act provides for representation of 6 growers in the Tobacco Board.

— Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is the competent authority for fixing Minimum Prices. CACP fixes MSP for two basic grades of tobacco in consultation with Tobacco Board. Tobacco Board Act provides for purchase of Tobacco by the Board when the auction prices go below the Minimum Support Prices. In the current auctions in Andhra Pradesh, the tobacco prices are much above the MSP and hence, the Board is not required to intervene in in the auctions

Pre-shipment inspections by Export Inspection Council

1931. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pre-shipment inspections made by the Export Inspection Council during the year 1991-92;

(b) the number of commodities seized by the Council during the said period; and

(c) the number of cases registered and initiated for adjudication proceedings against defaulting manufacturers and exporters, and how many certificates of Inspection, issued by the inspection agencies, were cancelled during the year 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Five Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) have been set up under the administrative and technical control of the Export Inspection Council (EIC) for quality control and pre-shipment inspection of commodities notified by the Government under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963. During 1991-92 the EIAs carried out 90,813 inspections under the Consignment Wise Inspection System and issued 31,919 inspection certificates under the In-process Quality Control (IPQC) System.

(b) The Export Inspection Council did not seize any commodity during the year 1991-92.

(c) Adjudication proceedings were initiated by the EIC during 1991-92 against one merchant-exporter and one manufacturer-exporter under Section 10 K of the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 as amended in 1984.

Two certificates of inspection issued by EIA-Calcutta were cancelled during this period under Section 7 (3A) of this Act.

Non-upgradation of posts of Joint Chief Controllers of export and import

1932. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2618 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Joint Chief Controllers have not been upgraded so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that Recruitment Rules have not been amended to this effect, so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that only non-functional posts were created; and

(d) what action is, proposed to be taken to amend the Recruitment Rules to specifically create the post in the scale of Rs. 4500-5700 for offices at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Restructuring of the CTS (now renamed Indian Trade Service) is under active consideration.

Agricultural export policy

@1933. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new medium-term agricultural export policy to boost the general level of exports from the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of new policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question 878, transferred from the 17th July, 1992.

C-Dot Plant and modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh

1934. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 100 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 1992 and state:

(a) what are the details of the national policy under which C-DOT plants are being set up in the country;

(b) what is the number of old telephone exchanges where such plants have been set so far and the names of telephone exchanges where such plants are proposed to be set up in the country; and

(c) what is the number of telephone exchanges set up in the country during the period from 1972 to 1975 in the country, which have not yet been modernised so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The type and size of C-DOT telephone exchanges set up at a place depends upon the demand and other techno-economic considerations.

(b) 3952 Nos. of C-DOT Exchanges of all sizes have been set up so far in the country upto March, 92. Names of places where C-DOT exchanges are planned to be set up during 1992-93 is enclosed as Annexure (See Appendix CLXIV, Annexure No. 35) The list is tentative and actual installation of exchanges will depend up on the availability of the equipment.

(c) About 372 Nos. of Telephone exchanges set up during 1972-75 are yet to be modernised.